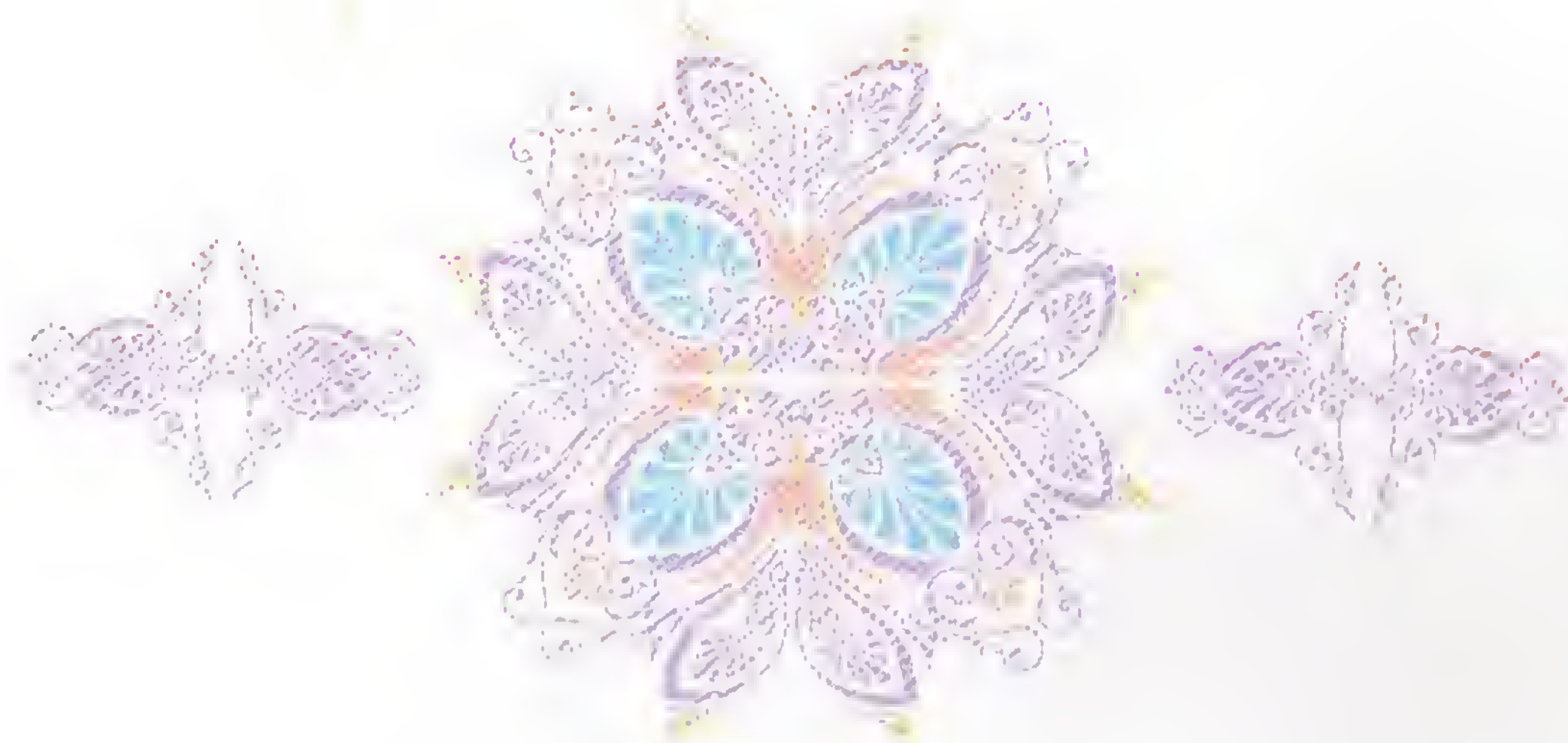


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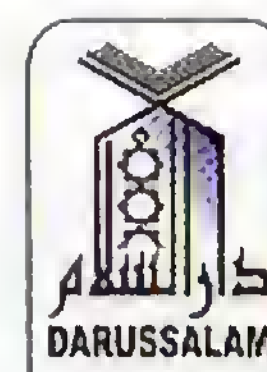
The Religion of Peace



By: Muhammad Ibrahim



DARUSSALAM



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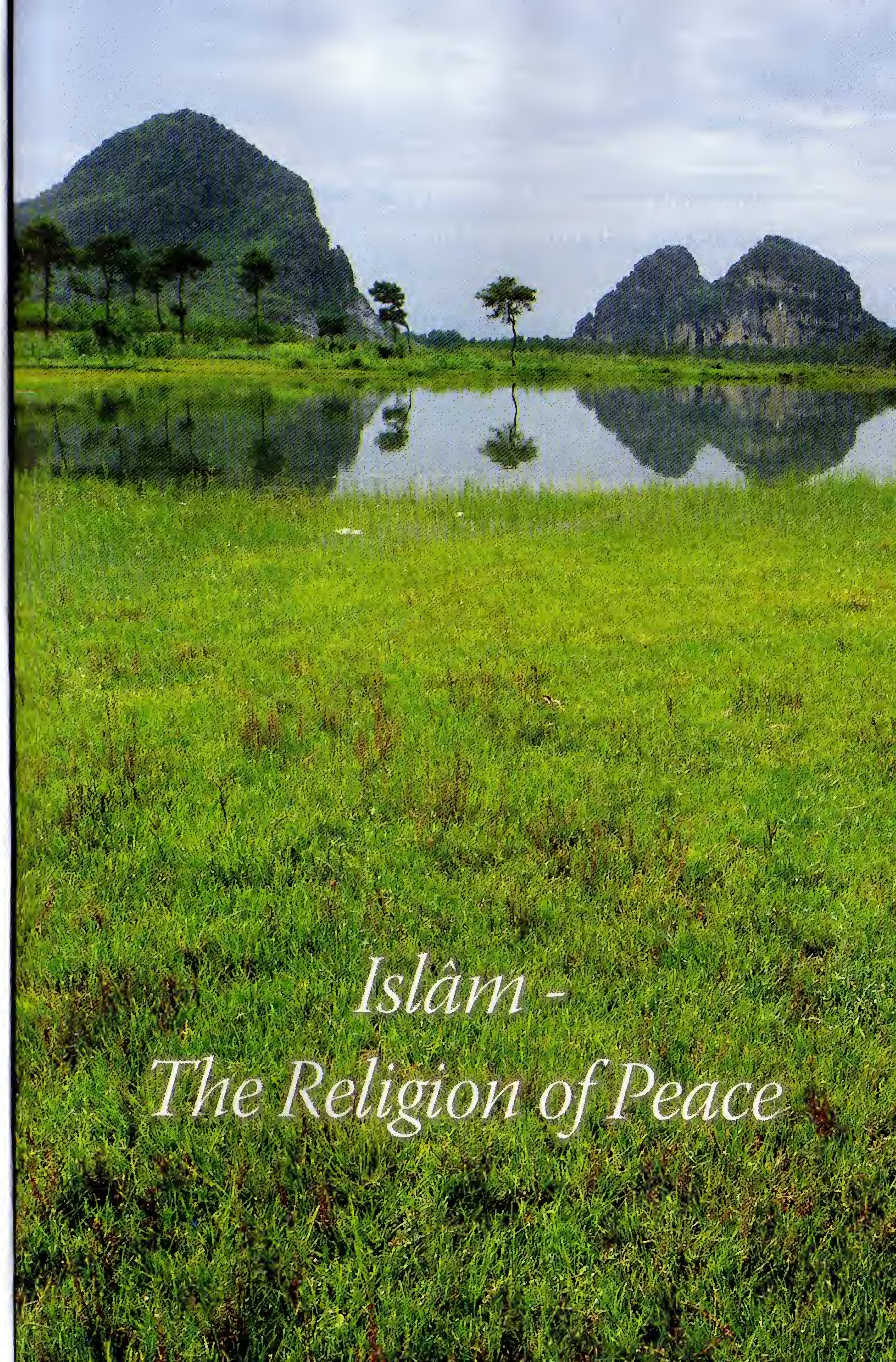
Publisher's Note

These days many books are being published about Islâm, some in defense of it and many more in its offence. This book briefly but precisely points out how all the religions are the same and how they are different from each other. The teachings in basic remain in the doctrines but in the name of liberalism, these are changed in practice. For example, sexual relationships outside of marriage are forbidden in every religion, but what is happening everyone knows.

Islâm in its basic nature and function has not changed because of its inner system. To many, the notion of Islâm being a religion of peace appears like a contradiction, they see Islâm as a dangerous faith under the influence of media. Islâm in reality is the religion based on peace. Muslims are ordained to spread peace and its wishes. "May the peace of God be with you," are the words every Muslim is directed to say every time he meets someone.

This book invites all to use their intellect to see the reality and consider the truth.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
Darussalam



*Islâm -
The Religion of Peace*

If you have received this book in a mosque, then welcome to it. If not then I hope that you will have a fruitful read.

The Arabic word for God is 'Allâh', the same name for God that will be used by Jews and Christians who speak Arabic. To the Muslim the mosque (*Masjid*) is a place of prostration, of bowing down to God.

The mosque is a special place; it brings the community together and serves as a focal point. It is therefore not just a place for prayer, but for meeting, for having community activities and serving the needs of both the Muslim and wider communities.



One will notice as they view the features of a mosque that it is quite different from other places of worship. A mosque is usually quite simple in its design. It is basically a place that is clean to pray. It is a required duty for someone who is or becomes a Muslim to establish five daily prayers. These can be performed anywhere on earth as long as it is clean. For example, at home it would be in the sitting room. Muslims will sometimes use or carry a prayer mat with them, to make the place of prayer a cleaner one and help them focus on prayer, the communication with Allâh. The prayer mat is not a requirement however. In addition, it is highly recommended for Muslims to, out of choice, pray in a mosque as it helps to bring the community closer together helping to develop the importance of a civic conscience.

Since Islâm is a purely monotheistic creed, mosques should not have pictures or statues of animals or people as this can so readily distract from the purpose of prayer, the remembrance of Allâh. The idea of focusing on some object or image is forbidden as it would put one in danger of believing in objects other than God. This leads to what is known as '*Shirk*', the only unforgivable sin in Islâm.

Furthermore, one will also see that there is little furniture, this maximises the space available, as worshippers will stand in long, equidistant rows and follow the *Imâm* (prayer leader) with the women

praying in separate area behind the men. Even though it may be hard for some non-Muslims to understand why men and women are kept apart, historically all of the main monotheistic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islâm) have upheld segregation as being important. This may not be the case today in most churches and some liberal synagogues. Therefore it is interesting to note that one of the enduring features of Islâm is its continuity in matters of essential worship. As fashions come and go, Islâm in its basic nature and function does not change. The rituals of prayer have remained the same since the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) practiced and taught them, and so too has the sacred text of the Qur'an remained the same.

Allah has created humans weak (Qur'an, 4:28)

and is fully aware of our weaknesses. His guidance is for our protection. Females can be flattered with the attention from males, again detracting away from the purpose of prayer and worship. Human beings, like all of God's creatures, need structure and balance in life, to function in a harmonious way. This balance for humans is achieved through sincere *Ibadah* (worship) and through the cohesion and preservation of the family. Love and relationships between husband and wife, mothers and fathers, have to be strong and enduring, which is primarily why sexual relationships outside of marriage are forbidden, as this will gradually erode the stability of society in a number of ways. The key to this

is through self-discipline.

Many non-Muslims can't understand why a Muslim woman will be so defensive of her position. To the outsider it appears so as subjugation, whereas to the Muslim it is liberty and a cherished right to willingly surrender to God's guidance and gain peace thereby.

